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# Media Release

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**For Immediate Release: August 7, 2008**

**Foster Care Awareness Campaign Rally  
Brings Foster Care Youth Together for a Mission**

Franklin, Hamilton and Cuyahoga County Children Services will join former foster child, Cedric Riley and the Public Children Services Association of Ohio for a foster youth rally on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The first annual Foster Care Awareness Campaign entitled, “*Success Is A Choice!*” was inspired by Riley who is now a youth advocate and nationally known motivational speaker. The event will be held on the Statehouse lawn (corner of High and Broad) from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 pm.

Hundreds of youth will assemble from around the state of Ohio in an effort to raise awareness about the issues they face as children in foster care. “It is our hope that the *Success Is A Choice!* rally will bring much needed attention to the issues foster youth experience on a daily basis,” said Riley. “The message we hope to convey will deal with topics ranging from self-confidence and personal achievement to education and mentorship for youth in the foster care system.”

The program will include a message by Riley as well as Senator Ray Miller and Adrian McClemore, president of the Ohio Youth Advisory Board. Youth from Franklin, Hamilton and Cuyahoga County will also share their stories at the rally.

Riley, who spent more than seven years in the foster care system and is the oldest of five siblings, is passionate about motivating others to bring about positive change. According to Riley, the event will encourage youth to pursue their future goals; and at the same time charge adults to reach out and help the children and youth in foster care.

Foster and adoptive parents, social workers and all those who want to show support for our community’s foster youth are encouraged to attend. For more information call Franklin County Children Services at 341-6060.

For further  
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